

Page 2, please delete the entire third and fifth paragraphs;

Page 2, after the deleted fifth paragraph, please insert a new centered heading as follows: --Brief Description of the Drawings--.

At top of page 3, please insert a new centered heading as follows: --Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment--;

Page 3, line 7, please delete "rotatingly" and insert --rotatably--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

At line 1, delete "Patent Claims", and substitute --We Claim:--.

Please amend the claims as follows:

a1 Sub B17 1 (Amended). [An] In an apparatus for applying a drinking straw to a receiving surface of a stand up bag which can be supplied on a conveying surface to a transfer means for drinking straws, [characterized in] the improvement comprising that [the] said transfer means (5) is arranged such that the drinking straw (2) while being handed over encloses an acute angle ( $\alpha$ ) with the conveying surface (4a).

2 (Amended). The apparatus according to claim 1, [characterized in that the] wherein said angle ( $\alpha$ ) corresponds to the inclination of [the] said receiving surface (3a) on the stand up bag (3) relative to [the] said conveying surface (4a).

Sub B2 3 (Amended). The apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, [characterized in that] wherein the stand up bag (3) lies on the